

AN 10/084,240
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating sphincter deficiencies comprising:
a syringe containing a bulking agent; and
~~a hypodermic needle connected to and extending between about 1.5 and about 5 inches from the syringe, the needle having, a linear segment extending from a hub of the syringe and an arcuate segment formed by a about a 15 degree bend located within a position of the needle closest to a needle tip, and the needle being configured to deliver delivering bulking agent into a tissue plane between an esophagus, a rectum or urethra, and a surrounding sphincter muscle.~~
- 2-4 (Cancelled).
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hypodermic needle is sufficiently rigid so as to maintain the arcuate segment while retaining a minimal amount of flexure to allow proper insertion of the needle into tissue.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a penetration depth shield is located on the linear segment of the hypodermic needle and limits tissue penetration of the needle.
- 7-11 (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended) A needle kit for treating stress urinary incontinence, comprising:
~~a syringe adapted to contain containing a bulking agent;~~
~~a hypodermic needle comprising a needle having a length of about 1.5 to 5 inches linear segment adapted to extend extending from a hub of the syringe and an arcuate segment formed by about a 15 degree bend located within a portion of the needle closest to a tip of the needle;~~
and
an injectable bulking agent.
13. (Original) The kit of claim 12, wherein said bulking agent is comprised of a plurality of discrete carbon coated particles in a carrier.

AN 10/084,240
Page 3

14. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein said carbon coated particles have an average transverse cross-sectional dimension of between 100 and 1000 microns.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 further comprising a penetration depth shield.

17. (Cancelled).